Remarks

Claim 10 has been amended to recite "code" rather than "codes".

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

It is submitted that Venkatraman is concerned with providing an enhanced email message which works by attaching computer software code to the email message itself. For example, Venkatraman states that "by being able to be sent as an attachment through E-mail, the appearance of the E-mail message can be enhanced at the option of the sender and the recipient will be ensured of being able to receive it in the intended form, since the executable recipient program instructions are preferably transmitted as part of the attachment" (Column 9 lines 15 to 23).

Therefore, Applicants submit that all that the skilled person would learn from reading Venkatraman is to attach computer software code to an email message in order to improve the way that the email message is presented to the recipient. In contrast a SIP message is a protocol found within the OSI Seven-Layer protocol model at layer 5. This model describes various layers providing various different functions for machine-to-machine communication. Layer 5 is the "session" layer and includes protocols involved in session management. For example, SIP messages are used to establish, manage and terminate media sessions between user terminals. It is very important to distinguish between the signaling protocol messages (such as SIP messages) and the user messages (such as voice data) which they enable. SIP is responsible for enabling end user communication (by establishing communication sessions between telephony applications, for example), but SIP messages themselves are normally invisible to the end user.

An email message, on the other hand, is a user message which is to be transferred across the network in much the same way that a voice message is transferred across the network during a telephony session. The function of an email message is to communicate information from end user to end user. Thus, an email message is clearly a human-to-human message and not a machine-to-machine message. Thus, on any reasonable interpretation, the term "signaling protocol message" does not include email messages. This is especially true in the case of Venkatraman where the computer software code attached to an email is used to improve the appearance of the email to the end user.

In summary, the two message types, signalling protocol and email, can therefore be seen to

fulfill very different functions and one skilled in the art would know that an email is not the equivalent to a SIP message.

Applicants therefore submit that a skilled person on reading Venkatraman would not learn the step of "storing computer software code in a SIP message" because of the very different natures of the types of messages involved (email being concerned with presenting information to a user and a SIP message which is not).

Furthermore, as noted in the previous response Handley does not disclose the option of carrying computer software code in a SIP message body, and defines the SIP message body as always including information of an advisory or session descriptive nature associated with particular types of request or response message. Computer software code is not of an advisory or session descriptive nature and therefore would not be contained within the body of the SIP message disclosed in Handley.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the skilled person would not even contemplate modifying the SIP message disclosed in Handley by attaching the computer software code as described in Venkatraman.
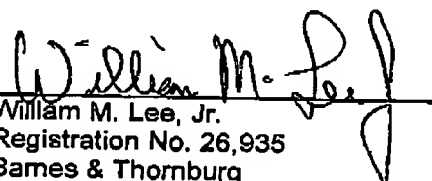
Claims 20, 24 and 26 all recite a SIP message containing computer software code and therefore, for the same reasons as given above are submitted to be non-obvious in view of the cited prior art.

The dependent claims are submitted to be non-obvious at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Further and favorable reconsideration is therefore urged.

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Respectfully submitted,

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